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DAWN OF NEW ERA FOR THE FARMERS

(Continued From First Page.)

figures were available, they would show a marked decline between 1890 and 1896, because it was during that period that the agricultural interests reached their most acute stage of poverty. In those years farm products, not only in the South, but throughout the country, were greatly depressed, selling in many cases below the cost of raising. Farm lands likewise steadily depreciated in value. By 1900, however, there had come a great change, due to the advance between 1897 and 1900, and in the latter year the value of farm products per capita was \$161, a gain of \$181 per capita, or about 57 per cent., compared with 1890. Since 1900 this gain has continued uninteruptedly, rising in 1905 to \$558 per capita, in 1906 to \$579, and in 1907 to \$619.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson estimates the total value of this year's farm products at \$8,000,000,000, or a gain of about \$600,000,000 over 1907. Accepting Mr. Wilson's figures as correct, though we believe that these figures are only at the beginning of the advance, we will prove to be too small, the per capita production will show another rapid advance this year.

Farm Products Pay Well.

In 1890 to 1906 the increasing poverty of the farmers of all sections, due to low prices, was the subject of almost universal discussion. Consumers of farm products were then buying at a lower cost than they had ever known before. But the producers, the farmers of the land, were in dire poverty. With the increase in manufacturing during the last ten years, and with the development of railroads and the large increase in the number of their employees, making a great gain in the number of consumers of farm products, and the gradual elimination of the cheap lands of the West by settlements and the flood of gold pouring into the world's channels of trade, we have had a combination of circumstances which have united to bring about a much higher range of values.

Only Beginning of Progress.

Much, however, as the farmers of this country have accomplished in the marvelous advance shown by these figures they are only at the beginning of their progress. Within the last five or ten years there has been a rapid growth in scientific farming. Under these conditions there is an increasing average yield per acre. We are preparing for an increase in yield much greater than the increase in acreage.

Much May Be Reclaimed.

It is estimated that the aggregate of wet or overflowing lands which can be reclaimed and of dry lands which can be irrigated is greater in extent and will be greater in value per acre even reclaimed than the acreage now devoted to wheat and cotton. This is indeed a veritable empire of boundless possibilities which will add immeasurably to the wealth of the South, where great reclamation progress is under way. Considering the progress in scientific agriculture, the steady increase in the yield per acre now going on, the vast extension in trucking and fruit-growing for the needs of an ever-expanding population, the great possibilities in irrigation and reclamation work, we can readily see that the agricultural interests of the

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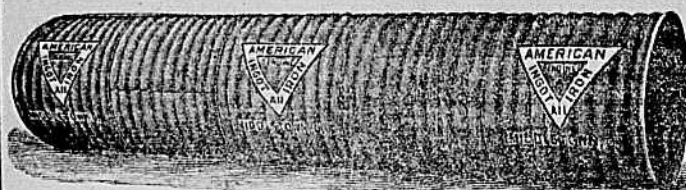
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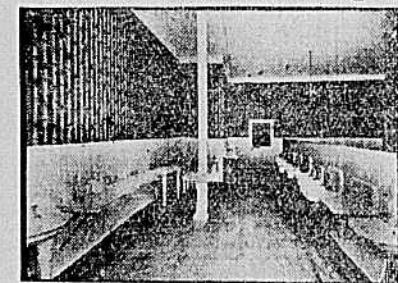
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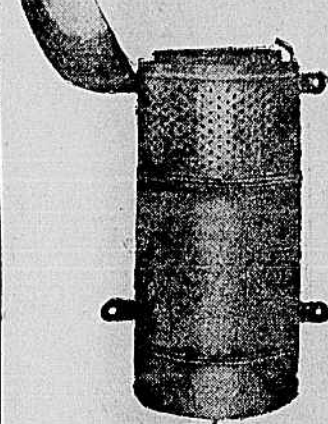
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